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# SCIENCE

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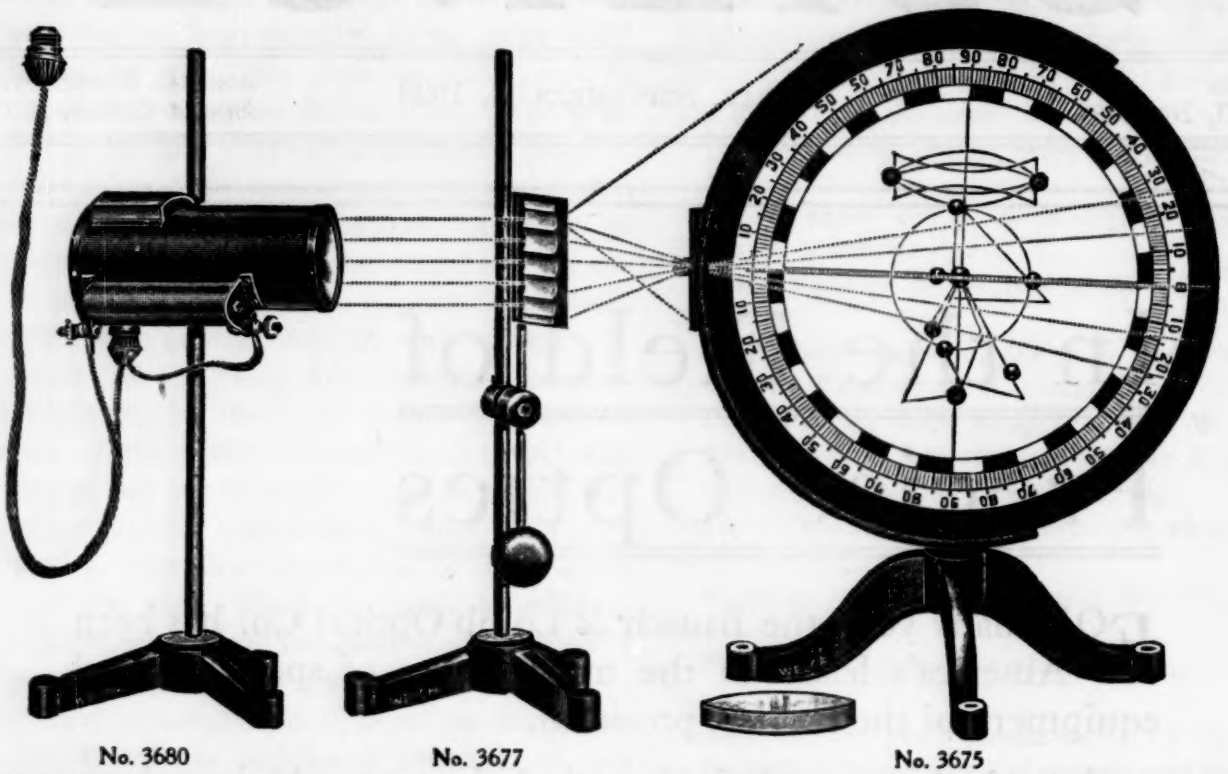

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# SCIENCE

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## THE ELECTRICAL STRUCTURE OF MATTER[1]

IT was in 1896 that this Association last met in Liverpool, under the presidency of the late Lord Lister, that great pioneer in antiseptic surgery, whose memory is held in affectionate remembrance by all nations. His address, which dealt mainly with the history of the application of antiseptic methods to surgery and its connection with the work of Pasteur, that prince of experimenters, whose birth has been so fittingly celebrated this year, gave us in a sense a completed page of brilliant scientific history. At the same time, in his opening remarks, Lister emphasized the importance of the discovery by Röntgen of a new type of radiation, the x-rays, which we now see marked the beginning of a new and fruitful era in another branch of science.

The visit to your city in 1896 was for me a memorable occasion, for it was here that I first attended a meeting of this Association, and here that I read my first scientific paper. But of much more importance, it was here that I benefited by the opportunity, which these gatherings so amply afford, of meeting for the first time many of the distinguished scientific men of this country and the foreign representatives of science who were the guests of this city on that occasion. The year 1896 has always seemed to me a memorable one for other reasons, for on looking back with some sense of perspective we can not fail to recognize that the last Liverpool meeting marked the beginning of what has been aptly termed the heroic age of physical science. Never before in the history of physics has there been witnessed such a period of intense activity when discoveries of fundamental importance have followed one another with such bewildering rapidity.

The discovery of x-rays by Röntgen had been published to the world in 1895, while the discovery of the radioactivity of uranium by Becquerel was announced early in 1896. Even the most imaginative of our scientific men could never have dreamed at that time of the extension of our knowledge of the structure of matter that was to develop from these two fundamental discoveries, but in the records of the Liverpool meeting we see the dawning recognition of the possible consequences of the discovery of x-rays, not only in their application to medicine and surgery,

[1] The presidential address before the British Association for the Advancement of Science given at Liverpool on September 12.

but as a new and powerful agent for attacking some of the fundamental problems of physics. The address of Professor J. J. Thomson, president of Section A, was devoted mainly to a discussion of the nature of the x-rays, and the remarkable properties induced in gases by the passage of x-rays through them—the beginning of a new and fruitful branch of study.

In applied physics, too, this year marked the beginning of another advance. In the discussion of a paper which I had the honor to read, on a new magnetic detector of electrical waves, the late Sir William Preece told the meeting of the successful transmission of signals for a few hundred yards by electric waves which had been made in England by a young Italian, G. Marconi. The first public demonstration of signalling for short distances by electric waves had been given by Sir Oliver Lodge at the Oxford Meeting of this association in 1894. It is startling to recall the rapidity of the development from such small beginnings of the new method of wireless intercommunication over the greatest terrestrial distances. In the last few years this has been followed by the even more rapid growth of the allied subject of radiotelephony as a practical means of broadcasting speech and music to distances only limited by the power of the transmitting station. The rapidity of these technical advances is an illustration of the close interconnection that must exist between pure and applied science if rapid and sure progress is to be made. The electrical engineer has been able to base his technical developments on the solid foundation of Maxwell's electromagnetic theory and its complete verification by the researches of Hertz, and also by the experiments of Sir Oliver Lodge in this university—a verification which was completed long before the practical possibilities of this new method of signalling had been generally recognized. The later advances in radiotelegraphy and radiotelephony have largely depended on the application of the results of fundamental researches on the properties of electrons, as illustrated in the use of the thermionic valve or electron tube which has proved such an invaluable agent both for the transmission and reception of electric waves.

It is of great interest to note that the benefits of this union of pure and applied research have not been one-sided. If the fundamental researches of the workers in pure science supply the foundations on which the applications are surely built, the successful practical application in turn quickens and extends the interest of the investigator in the fundamental problem, while the development of new methods and appliances required for technical purposes often provides the investigator with means of attacking still more difficult questions. This important reaction between pure and applied science can be illustrated in many branches of knowledge. It is particularly manifest in the industrial development of x-ray radiography for therapeutic and industrial purposes, where the development on a large scale of special x-ray tubes and improved methods of excitation has given the physicist much more efficient tools to carry out his researches on the nature of the rays themselves and on the structure of the atom. In this age no one can draw any sharp line of distinction between the importance of so-called pure and applied research. Both are equally essential to progress, and we can not but recognize that without flourishing schools of research on fundamental matters in our universities and scientific institutions technical research must tend to wither. Fortunately there is little need to labor this point at the moment, for the importance of a training in pure research has been generally recognized. The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has made a generous provision of grants to train qualified young men of promise in research methods in our scientific institutions, and has aided special fundamental researches which are clearly beyond the capacity of a laboratory to finance from its own funds. Those who have the responsibility of administering the grants in aid of research both for pure and applied science will need all their wisdom and experience to make a wise allocation of funds to secure the maximum of results for the minimum of expenditure. It is fatally easy to spend much money in a direct frontal attack on some technical problem of importance when the solution may depend on some addition to knowledge which can be gained in some other field of scientific inquiry possibly at a trifling cost. It is not in any sense my purpose to criticize those bodies which administer funds for fostering pure and applied research, but to emphasize how difficult it is to strike the correct balance between the expenditure on pure and applied science in order to achieve the best results in the long run.

It is my intention this evening to refer very briefly to some of the main features of that great advance in knowledge of the nature of electricity and matter which is one of the salient features of the interval since the last meeting of this Association in Liverpool.

In order to view the extensive territory which has been conquered by science in this interval, it is desirable to give a brief summary of the state of knowledge of the constitution of matter at the beginning of this epoch. Ever since its announcement by Dalton the atomic theory has steadily gained ground, and formed the philosophic basis for the explanation of the facts of chemical combination. In the early stages of its application to physics and chemistry it was unnecessary to have any detailed knowledge of the dimensions or structure of the atom. It was only necessary to assume that the atoms acted as individual units, and to know the relative masses of the atoms

of the different elements. In the next stage, for example, in the kinetic theory of gases, it was possible to explain the main properties of gases by supposing that the atoms of the gas acted as minute perfectly elastic spheres. During this period, by the application of a variety of methods, many of which were due to Lord Kelvin, rough estimates had been obtained of the absolute dimensions and mass of the atoms. These brought out the minute size and mass of the atom and the enormous number of atoms necessary to produce a detectable effect in any kind of measurement. From this arose the general idea that the atomic theory must of necessity forever remain unverifiable by direct experiment, and for this reason it was suggested by one school of thought that the atomic theory should be banished from the teaching of chemistry, and that the law of multiple proportions should be accepted as the ultimate fact of chemistry.

While the vaguest ideas were held as to the possible structure of atoms, there was a general belief among the more philosophically minded that the atoms of the elements could not be regarded as simple unconnected units. The periodic variations of the properties of the elements brought out by Mendeléef were only explicable if atoms were similar structures in some way constructed of similar material. We shall see that the problem of the constitution of atoms is intimately connected with our conception of the nature of electricity. The wonderful success of the electromagnetic theory had concentrated attention on the medium or ether surrounding the conductor of electricity, and little attention had been paid to the actual carriers of the electric current itself. At the same time the idea was generally gaining ground that an explanation of the results of Faraday's experiments on electrolysis was only possible on the assumption that electricity, like matter, was atomic in nature. The name "electron" had even been given to this fundamental unit by Johnstone Stoney, and its magnitude roughly estimated, but the full recognition of the significance and importance of this conception belongs to the new epoch.

For the clarifying of these somewhat vague ideas, the proof in 1897 of the independent existence of the electron as a mobile electrified unit, of mass minute compared with that of the lightest atom, was of extraordinary importance. It was soon seen that the electron must be of a constituent of all the atoms of matter, and that optical spectra had their origin in their vibrations. The discovery of the electron and the proof of its liberation by a variety of methods from all the atoms of matter was of the utmost significance, for it strengthened the view that the electron was probably the common unit in the structure of atoms which the periodic variation of the chemical properties had indicated. It gave for the first time some hope of the success of an attack on that most fundamental of all problems—the detailed structure of the atom. In the early development of this subject science owes much to the work of Sir. J. J. Thomson, both for the boldness of his ideas and for his ingenuity in developing methods for estimating the number of electrons in the atom, and of probing its structure. He early took the view that the atom must be an electrical structure, held together by electrical forces, and showed in a general way lines of possible explanation of the variation of physical and chemical properties of the elements, exemplified in the periodic law.

In the meantime our whole conception of the atom and of the magnitude of the forces which held it together were revolutionized by the study of radioactivity. The discovery of radium was a great step in advance, for it provided the experimenter with powerful sources of radiation specially suitable for examining the nature of the characteristic radiations which are emitted by the radioactive bodies in general. It was soon shown that the atoms of radioactive matter were undergoing spontaneous transformation, and that the characteristic radiations emitted, *viz.*, the $\alpha$, $\beta$ and $\gamma$ rays, were an accompaniment and consequence of these atomic explosions. The wonderful succession of changes that occur in uranium, more than thirty in number, was soon disclosed and simply interpreted on the transformation theory. The radioactive elements provide us for the first time with a glimpse into Nature's laboratory, and allow us to watch and study but not control the changes that have their origin in the heart of the radioactive atoms. These atomic explosions involve energies which are gigantic compared with those involved in any ordinary physical or chemical process. In the majority of cases an $\alpha$ particle is expelled at high speed, but in others a swift electron is ejected often accompanied by a $\gamma$ ray, which is a very penetrating x-ray of high frequency. The proof that the $\alpha$ particle is a charged helium atom for the first time disclosed the importance of helium as one of the units in the structure of the radioactive atoms, and probably also in that of the atoms of most of the ordinary elements. Not only then have the radioactive elements had the greatest direct influence on natural philosophy, but in subsidiary ways they have provided us with experimental methods of almost equal importance. The use of $\alpha$ particles as projectiles with which to explore the interior of the atom has definitely exhibited its nuclear structure, has led to artificial disintegration of certain light atoms, and promises to yield more information yet as to the actual structure of the nucleus itself.

The influence of radioactivity has also extended to yet another field of study of fascinating interest. We

have seen that the first rough estimates of the size and mass of the atom gave little hope that we could detect the effect of a single atom. The discovery that the radioactive bodies expel actual charged atoms of helium with enormous energy altered this aspect of the problem. The energy associated with a single α particle is so great that it can readily be detected by a variety of methods. Each α particle, as Sir Wm. Crookes first showed, produces a flash of light easily visible in a dark room when it falls on a screen coated with crystals of zinc sulphide. This scintillation method of counting individual particles has proved invaluable in many researches, for it gives us a method of unequalled delicacy for studying the effects of single atoms. The α particle can also be detected electrically or photographically, but the most powerful and beautiful of all methods is that perfected by Mr. C. T. R. Wilson for observing the track through a gas not only of an α particle but of any type of penetrating radiation which produces ions or of electrified particles along its path. The method is comparatively simple, depending on the fact, first discovered by him, that if a gas saturated with moisture is suddenly cooled each of the ions produced by the radiation becomes the nucleus of a visible drop of water. The water-drops along the track of the α particle are clearly visible to the eye, and can be recorded photographically. These beautiful photographs of the effect produced by single atoms or single electrons appeal, I think, greatly to all scientific men. They not only afford convincing evidence of the discrete nature of these particles, but give us new courage and confidence that the scientific methods of experiment and deduction are to be relied upon in this field of inquiry; for many of the essential points brought out so clearly and concretely in these photographs were correctly deduced long before such confirmatory photographs were available. At the same time, a minute study of the detail disclosed in these photographs gives us most valuable information and new clues on many recondite effects produced by the passage through matter of these flying projectiles and penetrating radiations.

In the meantime a number of new methods had been devised to fix with some accuracy the mass of the individual atom and the number in any given quantity of matter. The concordant results obtained by widely different physical principles gave great confidence in the correctness of the atomic idea of matter. The method found capable of most accuracy depends on the definite proof of the atomic nature of electricity and the exact valuation of this fundamental unit of charge. We have seen that it was early surmised that electricity was atomic in nature. This view was confirmed and extended by a study of the charges carried by electrons, α particles, and the ions produced in gases by x-rays and the rays from radioactive matter. It was first shown by Townsend that the positive or negative charge carried by an ion in gases was invariably equal to the charge carried by the hydrogen ion in the electrolysis of water, which we have seen was assumed, and assumed correctly, by Johnstone Stoney to be the fundamental unit of charge. Various methods were devised to measure the magnitude of this fundamental unit; the best known and most accurate is Millikan's, which depends on comparing the pull of an electric field on a charged droplet of oil or mercury with the weight of the drop. His experiments gave a most convincing proof of the correctness of the electronic theory, and gave a measure of this unit, the most fundamental of all physical units, with an accuracy of about one in a thousand. Knowing this value, we can by the aid of electrochemical data easily deduce the mass of the individual atoms and the number of molecules in a cubic centimeter of any gas with an accuracy of possibly one in a thousand, but certainly better than one in a hundred. When we consider the minuteness of the unit of electricity and of the mass of the atom this experimental achievement is one of the most notable even in an era of great advances.

The idea of the atomic nature of electricity is very closely connected with the attack on the problem of the structure of the atom. If the atom is an electrical structure it can only contain an integral number of charged units, and, since it is ordinarily neutral, the number of units of positive charge must equal the number of negative. One of the main difficulties in this problem has been the uncertainty as to the relative part played by positive and negative electricity in the structure of the atom. We know that the electron has a negative charge of one fundamental unit, while the charged hydrogen atom, whether in electrolysis or in the electric discharge, has a charge of one positive unit. But the mass of the electron is only 1/1840 of the mass of the hydrogen atom, and though an extensive search has been made, not the slightest evidence has been found of the existence of a positive electron of small mass like the negative. In no case has a positive charge been found associated with a mass less than that of the charged atom of hydrogen. This difference between positive and negative electricity is at first sight very surprising, but the deeper we pursue our inquiries the more this fundamental difference between the units of positive and negative electricity is emphasized. In fact, as we shall see later, the atoms are quite unsymmetrical structures with regard to the positive and negative units contained in them, and indeed it seems certain that if there were not this difference in mass between the two units, matter, as we know it, could not exist.

It is natural to inquire what explanation can be

given of this striking difference in mass of the two units. I think all scientific men are convinced that the small mass of the negative electron is to be entirely associated with the energy of its electrical structure, so that the electron may be regarded as a disembodied atom of negative electricity. We know that an electron in motion, in addition to possessing an electric field, also generates a magnetic field around it, and energy in the electromagnetic form is stored in the medium and moves with it. This gives the electron an apparent or electrical mass, which, while nearly constant for slow speeds, increases rapidly as its velocity approaches that of light. This increase of mass is in good accord with calculation, whether based on the ordinary electrical theory or on the theory of relativity. Now we know that the hydrogen atom is the lightest of all atoms, and is presumably the simplest in structure, and that the charged hydrogen atom, which we shall see is to be regarded as the hydrogen nucleus, carries a unit positive charge. It is thus natural to suppose that the hydrogen nucleus is the atom of positive electricity, or positive electron, analogous to the negative electron, but differing from it in mass. Electrical theory shows that the mass of a given charge of electricity increases with the concentration, and the greater mass of the hydrogen nucleus would be accounted for if its size were much smaller than that of the electron. Such a conclusion is supported by evidence obtained from the study of the close collisions of $\alpha$ particles with hydrogen nuclei. It is found that the hydrogen nucleus must be of minute size, of radius less than the electron, which is usually supposed to be about $10^{-13}$ cms.; also the experimental evidence is not inconsistent with the view that the hydrogen nucleus may actually be much smaller than the electron. While the greater mass of the positive atom of electricity may be explained in this way, we are still left with the enigma why the two units of electricity should differ so markedly in this respect. In the present state of our knowledge it does not seem possible to push this inquiry further, or to discuss the problem of the relation of these two units.

We shall see that there is the strongest evidence that the atoms of matter are built up of these two electrical units, *viz.*, the electron and the hydrogen nucleus or proton, as it is usually called when it forms part of the structure of any atom. It is probable that these two are the fundamental and indivisible units which build up our universe, but we may reserve in our mind the possibility that further inquiry may some day show that these units are complex, and divisible into even more fundamental entities. On the views we have outlined the mass of the atom is the sum of the electrical masses of the individual charged units composing its structure, and there is no need to assume that any other kind of mass exists. At the same time, it is to be borne in mind that the actual mass of an atom may be somewhat less than the sum of the masses of component positive and negative electrons when in the free state. On account of the very close proximity of the charged units in the nucleus of an atom, and the consequent disturbance of the electric and magnetic field surrounding them, such a decrease of mass is to be anticipated on general theoretical grounds.

We must now look back again to the earlier stages of the present epoch in order to trace the development of our ideas on the detailed structure of the atom. That electrons as such were important constituents was clear by 1900, but little real progress followed until the part played by the positive charges was made clear. New light was thrown on this subject by examining the deviation of $\alpha$ particles when they passed through the atoms of matter. It was found that occasionally a swift $\alpha$ particle was deflected from its rectilinear path through more than a right angle by an encounter with a single atom. In such a collision the laws of dynamics ordinarily apply, and the relation between the velocities of the colliding atoms before and after collision are exactly the same as if the two colliding particles are regarded as perfectly elastic spheres of minute dimensions. It must, however, be borne in mind that in these atomic collisions there is no question of mechanical impacts such as we observe with ordinary matter. The reaction between the two particles occurs through the intermediary of the powerful electric fields that surround them. Beautiful photographs illustrating the accuracy of these laws of collision between an $\alpha$ particle and an atom have been obtained by Messrs. Wilson, Blackett and others, while Mr. Wilson has recently obtained many striking illustrations of collisions between two electrons. Remembering the great kinetic energy of the $\alpha$ particle, its deflection through a large angle in a single atomic encounter shows clearly that very intense deflecting forces exist inside the atom. It seemed clear that electric fields of the required magnitude could be obtained only if the main charge of the atom were concentrated in a minute nucleus. From this arose the conception of the nuclear atom, now so well known, in which the heart of the atom is supposed to consist of a minute but massive nucleus, carrying a positive charge of electricity, and surrounded at a distance by the requisite number of electrons to form a neutral atom.

A detailed study of the scattering of $\alpha$ particles at different angles, by Geiger and Marsden, showed that the results were in close accord with this theory, and that the intense electric forces near the nucleus varied according to the ordinary inverse square law. In addition, the experiments allowed us to fix an upper

limit for the dimensions of the nucleus. For a heavy atom like that of gold the radius of the nucleus, if supposed to be spherical, was less than one thousandth of the radius of the complete atom surrounded by its electrons, and certainly less than $4 \times 10^{-12}$ cms. All the atoms were found to show this nuclear structure, and an approximate estimate was made of the nuclear charge of different atoms. This type of nuclear atom, based on direct experimental evidence, possesses some very simple properties. It is obvious that the number of units of resultant positive charge in the nucleus fixes the number of the outer planetary electrons in the neutral atom. In addition, since these outer electrons are in some way held in equilibrium by the attractive forces from the nucleus, and, since we are confident from general physical and chemical evidence that all atoms of any one element are identical in their external structure, it is clear that their arrangement and motion must be governed entirely by the magnitude of the nuclear charge. Since the ordinary chemical and physical properties are to be ascribed mainly to the configuration and motion of the outer electrons, it follows that the properties of an atom are defined by a whole number representing its nuclear charge. It thus becomes of great importance to determine the value of this nuclear charge for the atoms of all the elements.

Data obtained from the scattering of α particles, and also from the scattering of x-rays by light elements, indicated that the nuclear charge of an element was numerically equal to about half the atomic weight in terms of hydrogen. It was fairly clear from general evidence that the hydrogen nucleus had a charge one, and the helium nucleus (the α particle) a charge two. At this stage another discovery of great importance provided a powerful method of attack on this problem. The investigation by Laue on the diffraction of x-rays by crystals had shown definitely that x-rays were electromagnetic waves of much shorter wave-length than light, and the experiments of Sir William Bragg and W. L. Bragg had provided simple methods for studying the spectra of a beam of x-rays. It was found that the spectrum in general shows a continuous background on which is superimposed a spectrum of bright lines. At this stage H. G. J. Moseley began a research with the intention of deciding whether the properties of an element depended on its nuclear charge rather than on its atomic weight as ordinarily supposed. For this purpose the x-ray spectra emitted by a number of elements were examined and found to be all similar in type. The frequency of a given line was found to vary very nearly as the square of a whole number which varied by unity in passing from one element to the next. Moseley identified this whole number with the atomic or ordinal number of the elements when arranged in increasing order of atomic weight, allowance being made for the known anomalies in the periodic table and for certain gaps corresponding to possible but missing elements. He concluded that the atomic number of an element was a measure of its nuclear charge, and the correctness of this deduction has been recently verified by Chadwick by direct experiments on the scattering of α particles. Moseley's discovery is of fundamental importance, for it not only fixes the number of electrons in all the atoms, but shows conclusively that the properties of an atom, as had been surmised, are determined not by its atomic weight but by its nuclear charge. A relation of unexpected simplicity is thus found to hold between the elements. No one could have anticipated that with few exceptions all atomic numbers between hydrogen 1, and uranium 92, would correspond to known elements. The great power of Moseley's law in fixing the atomic number of an element is well illustrated by the recent discovery by Coster and Hevesy in Copenhagen of the missing element of atomic number 72, which they have named "hafnium."

Once the salient features of the structure of atoms have been fixed and the number of electrons known, the further study of the structure of the atom falls naturally into two great divisions: one, the arrangement of the outer electrons which controls the main physical and chemical properties of an element, and the other the structure of the nucleus on which the mass and radioactivity of the atom depends. On the nuclear theory the hydrogen atom is of extreme simplicity, consisting of a singly-charged positive nucleus, with only one attendant electron. The position and motions of the single electron must account for the complicated optical spectrum, and whatever physical and chemical properties are to be attributed to the hydrogen atom. The first definite attack on the problem of the electronic structure of the atom was made by Niels Bohr. He saw clearly that, if this simple constitution was assumed, it is impossible to account for the spectrum of hydrogen on the classical electrical theories, but that a radical departure from existing views was necessary. For this purpose he applied to the atom the essential ideas of the quantum theory which had been developed by Planck for other purposes, and had been found of great service in explaining many fundamental difficulties in other branches of science. On Planck's theory radiation is emitted in definite units or quanta, in which the energy E of a radiation is equal to $h\nu$ where $\nu$ is the frequency of the radiation measured by the ordinary methods and $h$ a universal constant. This quantum of radiation is not a definite fixed unit like the atom of electricity, for its magnitude depends on the frequency of the radiation. For example, the energy of a quantum is small for visible light, but becomes large for radiation of high frequency corresponding to the x-rays or the γ rays from radium.

Time does not allow me to discuss the underlying

meaning of the quantum theory or the difficulties connected with it. Certain aspects of the difficulties were discussed in the presidential address before this association by Sir Oliver Lodge at Birmingham in 1913. It suffices to say that this theory has proved of great value in several branches of science, and is supported by a large mass of direct experimental evidence.

In applying the quantum theory to the structure of the hydrogen atom Bohr supposed that the single electron could move in a number of stable orbits, controlled by the attractive force of the nucleus, without losing energy by radiation. The position and character of these orbits were defined by certain quantum relations depending on one or more whole numbers. It was assumed that radiation was only emitted when the electron for some reason was transferred from one stable orbit to another of lower energy. In such a case it was supposed that a homogeneous radiation was emitted of frequency $\nu$ determined by the quantum relation $E = h\nu$ where E was the difference of the energy of the electron in the two orbits. Some of these possible orbits are circular, others elliptical, with the nucleus as a focus, while if the change of mass of the electron with velocity is taken into account the orbits, as Sommerfeld showed, depend on two quantum numbers, and are not closed, but consist of a nearly elliptical orbit slowly rotating round the nucleus. In this way it is possible not only to account for the series relations between the bright lines of the hydrogen spectrum, but also to explain the fine structure of the lines and the very complicated changes observed when the radiating atoms are exposed in a strong magnetic or electric field. Under ordinary conditions the electron in the hydrogen atom rotates in a circular orbit close to the nucleus, but if the atoms are excited by an electric discharge or other suitable method, the electron may be displaced and occupy any one of the stable positions specified by the theory. In a radiating gas giving the complete hydrogen spectrum there will be present many different kinds of hydrogen atoms, in each of which the electron describes one of the possible orbits specified by the theory. On this view it is seen that the variety of modes of vibration of the hydrogen atom is ascribed, not to complexity of the structure of the atom, but to the variety of stable orbits which an electron may occupy relative to the nucleus. This novel theory of the origin of spectra has been developed so as to apply not only to hydrogen but to all the elements, and has been instrumental in throwing a flood of light on the relations and origin of their spectra, both X-ray and optical. The information thus gained has been applied by Bohr to determine the distribution of the electrons round the nucleus of any atom. The problem is obviously much less complicated for hydrogen than for a heavy atom, where each of the large number of electrons present acts on the other, and where the orbits described are much more intricate than the orbit of the single electron in hydrogen. Notwithstanding the great difficulties of such a complicated system of electrons in motion, it has been possible to fix the quantum numbers that characterize the motion of each electron, and to form at any rate a rough idea of the character of the orbit.

These planetary electrons divide themselves up into groups, according as their orbits are characterized by one or more equal quantum numbers. Without going into detail a few examples may be given to illustrate the conclusions which have been reached. As we have seen, the first element hydrogen has a nuclear charge of 1 and 1 electron; the second, helium, has a charge 2 and 2 electrons, moving in coupled orbits on the detailed nature of which there is still some uncertainty. These two electrons form a definite group, known as the K group, which is common to all the elements except hydrogen. For increasing nuclear charge the K group of electrons retain their characteristics, but move with increasing speed, and approach closer to the nucleus. As we pass from helium of atomic number 2 to neon, number 10, a new group of electrons is added consisting of two sub-groups, each of four electrons, together called the L group. This L group appears in all atoms of higher atomic number, and, as in the case of the K group, the speed of motion of the electrons increases, and the size of their orbits diminishes with the atomic number. When once the L group has been completed a new and still more complicated M group of electrons begins forming outside it, and a similar process goes on until uranium, which has the highest atomic number, is reached.

It may be of interest to try to visualize the conception of the atom we have so far reached by taking for illustration the heaviest atom, uranium. At the center of the atom is a minute nucleus surrounded by a swirling group of 92 electrons, all in motion in definite orbits, and occupying but by no means filling a volume very large compared with that of the nucleus. Some of the electrons describe nearly circular orbits round the nucleus; others, orbits of a more elliptical shape whose axes rotate rapidly round the nucleus. The motion of the electrons in the different groups is not necessarily confined to a definite region of the atom, but the electrons of one group may penetrate deeply into the region mainly occupied by another group, thus giving a type of interconnection or coupling between the various groups. The maximum speed of any electron depends on the closeness of the approach to the nucleus, but the outermost electron will have a minimum speed of more than 1,000 kilometers per second, while the innermost K electrons have an average speed of more than 150,-

000 kilometers per second, or half the speed of light. When we visualize the extraordinary complexity of the electronic system we may be surprised that it has been possible to find any order in the apparent medley of motions.

In reaching these conclusions, which we owe largely to Professor Bohr and his co-workers, every available kind of data about the different atoms has been taken into consideration. A study of the X-ray spectra, in particular, affords information of great value as to the arrangement of the various groups in the atom, while the optical spectrum and general chemical properties are of great importance in deciding the arrangements of the superficial electrons. While the solution of the grouping of the electrons proposed by Bohr has been assisted by considerations of this kind, it is not empirical in character, but has been largely based on general theoretical considerations of the orbits of electrons that are physically possible on the generalized quantum theory. The real problem involved may be illustrated in the following way. Suppose the gold nucleus be in some way stripped of its attendant seventy-nine electrons and that the atom is reconstituted by the successive addition of electrons one by one. According to Bohr, the atom will be reorganized in one way only, and one group after another will successively form and be filled up in the manner outlined. The nucleus atom has often been likened to a solar system where the sun corresponds to the nucleus and the planets to the electrons. The analogy, however, must not be pressed too far. Suppose, for example, we imagined that some large and swift celestial visitor traverses and escapes from our solar system without any catastrophe to itself or the planets. There will inevitably result permanent changes in the lengths of the month and year, and our system will never return to its original state. Contrast this with the effect of shooting an electron or $\alpha$ particle through the electronic structure of the atom. The motion of many of the electrons will be disturbed by its passage, and in special cases an electron may be removed from its orbit and hurled out of its atomic system. In a short time another electron will fall into the vacant place from one of the outer groups, and this vacant place in turn will be filled up, and so on until the atom is again reorganized. In all cases the final state of the electronic system is the same as in the beginning. This illustration also serves to indicate the origin of the X-rays excited in the atom, for these arise in the process of reformation of an atom from which an electron has been ejected, and the radiation of highest frequency arises when the electron is removed from the K group.

It is possibly too soon to express a final opinion on the accuracy of this theory which defines the outer structure of the atom, but there can be no doubt that it constitutes a great advance. Not only does it offer a general explanation of the optical and x-ray spectra of the atom, but it accounts in detail for many of the most characteristic features of the periodic law of Mendeléef. It gives us for the first time a clear idea of the reason for the appearance in the family of elements of groups of consecutive elements with similar chemical properties, such as the groups analogous to the iron group and the unique group of rare earths. The theory of Bohr, like all living theories, has not only correlated a multitude of isolated facts known about the atom, but has shown its power to predict new relations which can be verified by experiment. For example, the theory predicted the relations which must subsist between the Rydberg constants of the arc and spark spectra, and generally between all the successive optical spectra of an element, a prediction so strikingly confirmed by Paschen's work on the spectrum of doubly ionized aluminium and Fowler's work on the spectrum of trebly ionized silicon. Finally, it predicted with such great confidence the chemical properties of the missing element, number 72, that it gave the necessary incentive for its recent discovery.

While the progress of our knowledge of the outer structure of atoms has been much more rapid than could have been anticipated, we clearly see that only a beginning has been made on this great problem, and that an enormous amount of work is still required before we can hope to form anything like a complete picture even of the outer structure of the atom. We may be confident that the main features of the structure are clear, but in a problem of such great complexity progress in detail must of necessity be difficult and slow.

We have not so far referred to the very difficult question of the explanation on this theory of the chemical combination of atoms. In fact, as yet the theory has hardly concerned itself with molecular structure. On the chemical side, however, certain advances have already been made, notably by G. N. Lewis, Kossel, and Langmuir, in the interpretation of the chemical evidence by the idea of shared electrons, which play a part in the electronic structure of two combined atoms. There can be little doubt that the next decade will see an intensified attack by physicists and chemists on this very important but undoubtedly very complicated question.

Before leaving this subject, it may be of interest to refer to certain points in Bohr's theory of a more philosophical nature. It is seen that the orbits and energies of the various groups of electrons can be specified by certain quantum numbers, and the nature of the radiation associated with a change of orbit can be defined. But at the same time we can not explain why these orbits are alone permissible under normal

conditions, or understand the mechanism by which radiation is emitted. It may be quite possible to formulate accurately the energy relation of the electrons in the atom on a simple theory, and to explain in considerable detail all the properties of an atom, without any clear understanding of the underlying processes which lead to these results. It is natural to hope that with advance of knowledge we may be able to grasp the details of the process which leads to the emission of radiation, and to understand why the orbits of the electrons in the atom are defined by the quantum relations. Some, however, are inclined to take the view that in the present state of knowledge it may be quite impossible in the nature of things to form that detailed picture in space and time of successive events that we have been accustomed to consider as so important a part of a complete theory. The atom is naturally the most fundamental structure presented to us. Its properties must explain the properties of all more complicated structures, including matter in bulk, but we may not, therefore, be justified in expecting that its processes can be explained in terms of concepts derived entirely from a study of molar properties. The atomic processes involved may be so fundamental that a complete understanding may be denied us. It is early yet to be pessimistic on this question, for we may hope that our difficulties may any day be resolved by further discoveries.

We must now turn our attention to that new and comparatively unexplored territory, the nucleus of the atom. In a discussion on the structure of the atom ten years ago, in answer to a question on the structure of the nucleus, I was rash enough to say that it was a problem that might well be left to the next generation, for at that time there seemed to be few obvious methods of attack to throw light on its constitution. While much more progress has been made than appeared possible at that time, the problem of the structure of the nucleus is inherently more difficult than the allied problem already considered of the structure of the outer atom, where we have a wealth of information obtained from the study of light and x-ray spectra and from the chemical properties to test the accuracy of our theories.

In the case of the nucleus, we know its resultant charge, fixed by Moseley's law, and its mass, which is very nearly equal to the mass of the whole atom, since the mass of the planetary electrons is relatively very small and may for most purposes be neglected. We know that the nucleus is of size minute compared with that of the whole atom, and can with some confidence set a maximum limit to its size. The study of radioactive bodies has provided us with very valuable information on the structure of the nucleus, for we know that the $\alpha$ and $\beta$ particles must be expelled from it, and there is strong evidence that the very penetrating $\gamma$ rays represent modes of vibration of the electrons contained in its structure. In the long series of transformations which occur in the uranium atom, eight $\alpha$ particles are emitted and six electrons, and it seems clear that the nucleus of a heavy atom is built up, in part at least, of helium nuclei and electrons. It is natural to suppose that many of the ordinary stable atoms are constituted in a similar way. It is a matter of remark that no indication has been obtained that the lightest nucleus, *viz.*, that of hydrogen, is liberated in these transformations, where the processes occurring are of so fundamental a character. At the same time, it is evident that the hydrogen nucleus must be a unit in the structure of some atoms, and this has been confirmed by direct experiment. Dr. Chadwick and I have observed that swift hydrogen nuclei are released from the elements boron, nitrogen, fluorine, sodium, aluminium, and phosphorus when they are bombarded by swift $\alpha$ particles, and there is little room for doubt that these hydrogeu nuclei form an essential part of the nuclear structure. The speed of ejection of these nuclei depends on the velocity of the $\alpha$ particle and on the element bombarded. It is of interest to note that the hydrogen nuclei are liberated in all directions, but the speed in the backward direction is always somewhat less than in the direction of the $\alpha$ particle. Such a result receives a simple explanation if we suppose that the hydrogen nuclei are not built into the main nucleus but exist as satellites probably in motion round a central core. There can be no doubt that bombardment by $\alpha$ particles has effected a veritable disintegration of the nuclei of this group of elements. It is significant that the liberation of hydrogen nuclei only occurs in elements of odd atomic number, viz. 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, the elements of even number appearing quite unaffected. For a collision of an $\alpha$ particle to be effective, it must either pass close to the nucleus or actually penetrate its structure. The chance of this is excessively small on account of the minute size of the nucleus. For example, although each individual $\alpha$ particle will pass through the outer structure of more than 100,000 atoms of aluminium in its path, it is only about one $\alpha$ particle in a million that gets close enough to the nucleus to effect the liberation of its hydrogen satellite.

This artificial disintegration of elements by $\alpha$ particles takes place only on a minute scale, and its observation has only been possible by the counting of individual swift hydrogen nuclei by the scintillations they produce in zinc sulphide.

These experiments suggest that the hydrogen nucleus or proton must be one of the fundamental units which build up a nucleus, and it seems highly probable that the helium nucleus is a secondary building unit composed of the very close union of four protons

and two electrons. The view that the nuclei of all atoms are ultimately built up of protons of mass nearly one and of electrons has been strongly supported and extended by the study of *isotopes*. It was early observed that some of the radioactive elements which showed distinct radioactive properties were chemically so alike that it was impossible to effect their separation when mixed together. Similar elements of this kind were called "isotopes" by Soddy, since they appeared to occupy the same place in the periodic table. For example, a number of radioactive elements in the uranium and thorium series have been found to have physical and chemical properties identical with those of ordinary lead, but yet to have atomic weights differing from ordinary lead, and also distinctive radioactive properties. The nuclear theory of the atom offers at once a simple interpretation of the relation between isotopic elements. Since the chemical properties of an element are controlled by its nuclear charge and little influenced by its mass, isotopes must correspond to atoms with the same nuclear charge but of different nuclear mass. Such a view also offers a simple explanation why the radioactive isotopes show different radioactive properties, for it is to be anticipated that the stability of a nucleus will be much influenced by its mass and arrangement.

Our knowledge of isotopes has been widely extended in the last few years by Aston, who has devised an accurate direct method for showing the presence of isotopes in the ordinary elements. He has found that some of the elements are "pure"—*i.e.*, consist of atoms of identical mass—while others contain a mixture of two or more isotopes. In the case of the isotopic elements, the atomic mass, as ordinarily measured by the chemist, is a mean value depending on the atomic masses of the individual isotopes and their relative abundance. These investigations have not only shown clearly that the number of distinct species of atoms is much greater than was supposed, but have brought out a relation between the elements of great interest and importance. The atomic masses of the isotopes of most of the elements examined have been found, to an accuracy of about one in a thousand, to be whole numbers in terms of oxygen, 16. This indicates that the nuclei are ultimately built up of protons of mass very nearly one and of electrons. It is natural to suppose that this building unit is the hydrogen nucleus, but that its average mass in the complex nucleus is somewhat less than its mass in the free state owing to the close packing of the charged units in the nuclear structure. We have already seen that the helium nucleus of mass 4 is probably a secondary unit of great importance in the building up of many atoms, and it may be that other simple combinations of protons and electrons of mass 2 and 3 occur in the nucleus, but these have not been observed in the free state.

While the mass of the majority of the isotopes are nearly whole numbers, certain cases have been observed by Aston where this rule is slightly departed from. Such variations in mass may ultimately prove of great importance in throwing light on the arrangement and closeness of packing of the protons and electrons, and for this reason it is to be hoped that it may soon prove possible to compare atomic masses of the elements with much greater precision even than at present.

While we may be confident that the proton and the electron are the ultimate units which take part in the building up of all nuclei, and can deduce with some certainty the number of protons and electrons in the nuclei of all atoms, we have little, if any, information on the distribution of these units in the atom or on the nature of the forces that hold them in equilibrium. While it is known that the law of the inverse square holds for the electrical forces some distance from the nucleus, it seems certain that this law breaks down inside the nucleus. A detailed study of the collisions between $\alpha$ particles and hydrogen atoms, where the nuclei approach very close to each other, shows that the forces between nuclei increase ultimately much more rapidly than is to be expected from the law of the inverse square, and it may be that new and unexpected forces may come into importance at the very small distances separating the protons and electrons in the nucleus. Until we gain more information on the nature and law of variation of the forces inside the nucleus, further progress on the detailed structure of the nucleus may be difficult. At the same time, there are still a number of hopeful directions in which an attack may be made on this most difficult of problems. A detailed study of the $\gamma$ rays from radioactive bodies may be expected to yield information as to the motion of the electrons inside the nucleus, and it may be, as Ellis has suggested, that quantum laws are operative inside as well as outside the nucleus. From a study of the relative proportions of the elements in the earth's crust, Harkins has shown that elements of even atomic number are much more abundant than elements of odd number, suggesting a marked difference of stability in these two classes of elements. It seems probable that any process of stellar evolution must be intimately connected with the building up of complex nuclei from simpler ones, and its study may thus be expected to throw much light on the evolution of the elements.

The nucleus of a heavy atom is undoubtedly a very complicated system, and in a sense a world of its own, little, if at all, influenced by the ordinary physical and chemical agencies at our command. When we consider the mass of a nucleus compared with its

volume it seems certain that its density is many billions of times that of our heaviest element. Yet, if we could form a magnified picture of the nucleus, we should expect that it would show a discontinuous structure, occupied but not filled by the minute building units, the protons and electrons, in ceaseless rapid motion controlled by their mutual forces.

Before leaving this subject it is desirable to say a few words on the important question of the energy relations involved in the formation and disintegration of atomic nuclei, first opened up by the study of radioactivity. For example, it is well known that the total evolution of energy during the complete disintegration of one gramme of radium is many millions of times greater than in the complete combustion of an equal weight of coal. It is known that this energy is initially mostly emitted in the kinetic form of swift $\alpha$ and $\beta$ particles, and the energy of motion of these bodies is ultimately converted into heat when they are stopped by matter. Since it is believed that the radioactive elements were analogous in structure to the ordinary inactive elements the idea naturally arose that the atoms of all the elements contained a similar concentration of energy, which would be available for use if only some simple method could be discovered of promoting and controlling their disintegration. This possibility of obtaining new and cheap sources of energy for practical purposes was naturally an alluring prospect to the lay and scientific man alike. It is quite true that, if we were able to hasten the radioactive processes in uranium and thorium so that the whole cycle of their disintegration could be confined to a few days instead of being spread over thousands of millions of years, these elements would provide very convenient sources of energy on a sufficient scale to be of considerable practical importance. Unfortunately, although many experiments have been tried, there is no evidence that the rate of disintegration of these elements can be altered in the slightest degree by the most powerful laboratory agencies. With increase in our knowledge of atomic structure there has been a gradual change of our point of view on this important question, and there is by no means the same certainty to-day as a decade ago that the atoms of an element contain hidden stores of energy. It may be worth while to spend a few minutes in discussing the reason for this change in outlook. This can best be illustrated by considering an interesting analogy between the transformation of a radioactive nucleus and the changes in the electron arrangement of an ordinary atom. It is now well known that it is possible by means of electron bombardment or by appropriate radiation to excite an atom in such a way that one of its superficial electrons is displaced from its ordinary stable position to another temporarily stable position further removed from the nucleus. This electron in course of time falls back into its old position, and its potential energy is converted into radiation in the process. There is some reason for believing that the electron has a definite average life in the displaced position, and that the chance of its return to its original position is governed by the laws of probability. In some respects an "excited" atom of this kind is thus analogous to a radioactive atom, but of course the energy released in the disintegration of a nucleus is of an entirely different order of magnitude from the energy released by return of the electron in the excited atom. It may be that the elements, uranium and thorium, represent the sole survivals in the earth to-day of types of elements that were common in the long distant ages, when the atoms now composing the earth were in course of formation. A fraction of the atoms of uranium and thorium formed at that time has survived over the long interval on account of their very slow rate of transformation. It is thus possible to regard these atoms as having not yet completed the cycle of changes which the ordinary atoms have long since passed through, and that the atoms are still in the "excited" state where the nuclear units have not yet arranged themselves in positions of ultimate equilibrium, but still have a surplus of energy which can only be released in the form of the characteristic radiation from active matter. On such a view, the presence of a store of energy ready for release is not a property of all atoms, but only of a special class of atoms like the radioactive atoms which have not yet reached the final state for equilibrium.

It may be urged that the artificial disintegration of certain elements by bombardment with swift $\alpha$ particles gives definite evidence of a store of energy in some of the ordinary elements, for it is known that a few of the hydrogen nuclei, released from aluminium for example, are expelled with such swiftness that the particle has a greater individual energy than the $\alpha$ particle which causes their liberation. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to give a definite answer on this point until we know more of the details of this disintegration.

On the other hand, another method of attack on this question has become important during the last few years, based on the comparison of the relative masses of the elements. This new point of view can best be illustrated by a comparison of the atomic masses of hydrogen and helium. As we have seen, it seems very probable that helium is not an ultimate unit in the structure of nuclei, but is a very close combination of four hydrogen nuclei and two electrons. The mass of the helium nucleus, 4.00 in terms of $O = 16$, is considerably less than the mass 4.03 of four hydrogen nuclei. On modern views there is believed to be a very close connection between mass and energy, and

this loss in mass in the synthesis of the helium nucleus from hydrogen nuclei indicates that a large amount of energy in the form of radiation has been released in the building of the helium nucleus from its components. It is easy to calculate from this loss of mass that the energy set free in forming one gramme of helium is large even compared with that liberated in the total disintegration of one gramme of radium. For example, calculation shows that the energy released in the formation of one pound of helium gas is equivalent to the energy emitted in the complete combustion of about eight thousand tons of pure carbon. It has been suggested by Eddington and Perrin that it is mainly to this source of energy that we must look to maintain the heat emission of the sun and hot stars over long periods of time. Calculations of the loss of heat from the sun show that this synthesis of helium need only take place slowly in order to maintain the present rate of radiation for periods of the order of one thousand million years. It must be acknowledged that these arguments are somewhat speculative in character, for no certain experimental evidence has yet been obtained that helium can be formed from hydrogen.

The evidence of the slow rate of stellar evolution, however, certainly indicates that the synthesis of helium, and perhaps other elements of higher atomic weight, may take place slowly in the interior of hot stars. While in the electric discharge through hydrogen at low pressure we can easily reproduce the conditions of the interior of the hottest star as far as regards the energy of motion of the electrons and hydrogen nuclei, we can not hope to reproduce that enormous density of radiation which must exist in the interior of a giant star. For this and other reasons it may be very difficult, or even impossible, to produce helium from hydrogen under laboratory conditions.

If this view of the great heat emission in the formation of helium be correct, it is clear that the helium nucleus is the most stable of all nuclei, for an amount of energy corresponding to three or four $\alpha$ particles would be required to disrupt it into its components. In addition, since the mass of the proton in nuclei is nearly 1.000 instead of its mass 1.0072 in the free state, it follows that much more energy must be put into the atom than will be liberated by its disintegration into its ultimate units. At the same time, if we consider an atom of oxygen, which may be supposed to be built up of four helium nuclei as secondary units, the change of mass, if any, in its synthesis from already formed helium nuclei is so small that we can not yet be certain whether there will be a gain or loss of energy by its disintegration into helium nuclei, but in any case we are certain that the magnitude of the energy will be much less than for the synthesis of helium from hydrogen. Our information on this subject of energy changes in the formation or disintegration of atoms in general is as yet too uncertain and speculative to give any decided opinion on future possibilities in this direction, but I have endeavored to outline some of the main arguments which should be taken into account.

I must now bring to an end my survey, I am afriad all too brief and inadequate, of this great period of advance in physical science. In the short time at my disposal it has been impossible for me, even if I had the knowledge, to refer to the great advances made during the period under consideration in all branches of pure and applied science. I am well aware that in some departments the progress made may justly compare with that of my own subject. In these great additions to our knowledge of the structure of matter every civilized nation has taken an active part, but we may be justly proud that this country has made many fundamental contributions. With this country I must properly include our Dominions overseas, for they have not been behindhand in their contributions to this new knowledge. It is, I am sure, a matter of pride to this country that the scientific men of our Dominions have been responsible for some of the most fundamental discoveries of this epoch, particularly in radioactivity.

This tide of advance was continuous from 1896, but there was an inevitable slackening during the War. It is a matter of good omen that, in the last few years, the old rate of progress has not only been maintained but even intensified, and there appears to be no obvious sign that this period of great advances has come to an end. There has never been a time when the enthusiasm of the scientific workers was greater, or when there was a more hopeful feeling that great advances were imminent. This feeling is no doubt in part due to the great improvement during this epoch of the technical methods of attack, for problems that at one time seemed unattackable are now seen to be likely to fall before the new methods. In the main, the epoch under consideration has been an age of experiment, where the experimenter has been the pioneer in the attack on new problems. At the same time, it has been also an age of bold ideas in theory, as the Quantum Theory and the Theory of Relativity so well illustrate.

I feel it is a great privilege to have witnessed this period, which may almost be termed the Renaissance of Physics. It has been of extraordinary intellectual interest to watch the gradual unfolding of new ideas and the ever-changing methods of attack on difficult problems. It has been of great interest, too, to note the comparative simplicity of the ideas that have ultimately emerged. For example, no one could have anticipated that the general relation between the ele-

ments would prove to be of so simple a character as we now believe it to be. It is an illustration of the fact that Nature appears to work in a simple way, and that the more fundamental the problem often simpler are the conceptions needed for its explanation. The rapidity and certitude of the advance in this epoch have largely depended on the fact that it has been possible to devise experiments so that few variables were involved. For example, the study of the structure of the atom has been much facilitated by the possibility of examining the effects due to a single atom of matter, or, as in radioactivity or x-rays, of studying processes going on in the individual atom which were quite uninfluenced by external conditions.

In watching the rapidity of this tide of advance in physics I have become more and more impressed by the power of the scientific method of extending our knowledge of Nature. Experiment, directed by the disciplined imagination either of an individual, or still better, of a group of individuals of varied mental outlook, is able to achieve results which far transcend the imagination alone of the greatest natural philosopher. Experiment without imagination, or imagination without recourse to experiment, can accomplish little, but, for effective progress, a happy blend of these two powers is necessary. The unknown appears as a dense mist before the eyes of men. In penetrating this obscurity we can not invoke the aid of supermen, but must depend on the combined efforts of a number of adequately trained ordinary men of scientific imagination. Each in his own special field of inquiry is enabled by the scientific method to penetrate a short distance, and his work reacts upon and influences the whole body of other workers. From time to time there arises an illuminating conception, based on accumulated knowledge, which lights up a large region and shows the connection between these individual efforts, so that a general advance follows. The attack begins anew on a wider front, and often with improved technical weapons. The conception which led to this advance often appears simple and obvious when once it has been put forward. This is a common experience, and the scientific man often feels a sense of disappointment that he himself had not foreseen a development which ultimately seems so clear and inevitable.

The intellectual interest due to the rapid growth of science to-day can not fail to act as a stimulus to young men to join in scientific investigation. In every branch of science there are numerous problems of fundamental interest and importance which await solution. We may confidently predict an accelerated rate of progress of scientific discovery, beneficial to mankind certainly in a material but possibly even more so in an intellectual sense. In order to obtain the best results certain conditions must, however, be fulfilled. It is necessary that our universities and other specific institutions should be liberally supported, so as not only to be in a position to train adequately young investigators of promise, but also to serve themselves as active centers of research. At the same time there must be a reasonable competence for those who have shown a capacity for original investigation. Not least, peace throughout the civilized world is as important for rapid scientific development as for general commercial prosperity. Indeed, science is truly international, and for progress in many directions the co-operation of nations is as essential as the cooperation of individuals. Science, no less than industry, desires a stability not yet achieved in world conditions.

There is an error far too prevalent to-day that science progresses by the demolition of former well-established theories. Such is very rarely the case. For example, it is often stated that Einstein's general theory of relativity has overthrown the work of Newton on gravitation. No statement could be farther from the truth. Their works, in fact, are hardly comparable, for they deal with different fields of thought. So far as the work of Einstein is relevant to that of Newton, it is simply a generalization and broadening of its basis; in fact, a typical case of mathematical and physical development. In general, a great principle is not discarded but so modified that it rests on a broader and more stable basis.

It is clear that the splendid period of scientific activity which we have reviewed to-night owes much of its success and intellectual appeal to the labors of those great men in the past, who wisely laid the sure foundations on which the scientific worker builds to-day, or to quote from the words inscribed in the dome of the National Gallery, "The works of those who have stood the test of ages have a claim to that respect and veneration to which no modern can pretend."

ERNEST RUTHERFORD

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### THE GORGAS MEMORIAL INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE[1]

1. The Gorgas Memorial was organized under the laws of the state of Delaware with Admiral Braisted, Honorable John Bassett Moore, Surgeon General Ireland, Surgeon General Stitt, Surgeon General Cumming, Dr. Leo S. Rowe, Honorable Jose E. Lefevre of the Panaman Legation, President Belisario Porras of Panama, and Dr. Franklin Martin as the sponsors.

2. The object of the organization is to raise money,

[1] Statement presented to the American Medical Association by Dr. Franklin H. Martin.

the interest of which will sustain a working memorial to General Gorgas, whose genius stamped out yellow fever and malaria in Cuba and Panama, and who taught us how to control those diseases.

3. The memorial is to be known as the Gorgas Memorial Institute of Tropical and Preventive Medicine, and will take the form of a research laboratory and a teaching institute in Panama for those branches of medicine.

4. The headquarters of this institute will be presided over by a board of scientific directors, of which Professor Richard P. Strong, of Harvard University, has been selected as the first director. The institute will be located in Panama on a beautiful site on the shore of the Pacific, which was formerly in the exposition grounds of the city of Panama. The site was donated by the Republic of Panama, and President Porras, backed by the citizens of Panama, has guaranteed the initial buildings.

5. It is the plan of the directors of the institute to raise the sum of five million dollars, which will be invested in trust securities, and only the interest of which is to be used to carry on the purposes of the organization.

6. The board of directors is composed of the following named men:

Honorary president, president of the United States.
Dr. Belisario Porras, president, Republic of Panama.
Surgeon General Merritte W. Ireland, United States Army, Washington.
Surgeon General Hugh S. Cumming, United States Public Health Service.
Dr. Seale Harris, president of the Southern Medical Association.
Mr. Bernard Baruch, New York.
Mr. W. P. C. Harding, president of the Federal Reserve Bank, Boston.
Mr. Fred W. Upham, president, Consumers' Company, Chicago.
Dr. W. H. G. Logan, professor of oral surgery, Chicago College of Dental Surgery.
Dr. Gilbert Fitz-Patrick, chairman of the board of control, American Institute of Homeopathy, Chicago.
Dr. Leo S. Rowe, director-general, Pan American Union, Washington.
Surgeon General Edgar R. Stitt, United States Navy, Washington.
Brig. Gen. Robert E. Noble, Surgeon General's Library, Washington.
Hon. R. J. Alfard, Panaman minister, Washington, D. C.
Judge John Bassett Moore, Court of International Justice, The Hague.
Mr. Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor.
Brig. Gen. Charles G. Dawes, president of the Central Trust Company of Illinois.
Mr. Adolph Ochs, editor, New York *Times*, New York.
Dr. Frank Billings, Chicago.
Vice-president and chairman of Board of Directors, Dr. Franklin H. Martin, director-general, American College of Surgeons.

## THE ROOSEVELT WILD LIFE FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION

THE Roosevelt Wild Life Forest Experiment Station, Syracuse, N. Y., recently received a valuable gift in the form of an exhibit showing in 14 stages the preparation of Hudson seal or seal-dyed muskrat from the raw skin to the fully dyed fur. This exhibit is enclosed in a polished mahogany case, 20 feet long, with plate glass front, and with electrical illumination. The whole exhibit is beautifully executed. This gift was made by A. Hollander & Son, of Newark, N. J., the leading dyers of this fur, and through the friendly services of Mr. Max Herskovitz, of Alfred Herskovitz and Son, New York City.

Mr. Edward R. Warren, fur naturalist of the station, is continuing his investigations of the beaver in the Yellowstone National Park, begun in 1921. He is aided by Mr. James E. Mills, a volunteer assistant. These studies have been made possible by the gift of the services of these men and by funds from members of the Board of Trade of the Fur Industry of New York City. The cooperation on the part of these men of the fur industry is a part of their program to encourage research and conservation of fur-bearing animals, as they realize that the permanence of the industry depends upon a sustained yield of raw fur.

Mr. Aretas A. Saunders, field ornithologist, has devoted the summer to a study of the breeding grounds of ducks in western New York. His report on the birds of the Alleghany State Park has just been published in the *Roosevelt Wild Life Bulletin*.

Dr. Charles E. Johnson, formerly fur naturalist of the station, who made a study of the Adirondack beaver for the station in 1921, has devoted the summer to a study of the status of muskrat in western New York. Dr. Johnson, recently of the University of Kansas, has accepted a professorship in the department of forest zoology in the New York State College of Forestry.

Dr. William C. Kendall, ichthyologist, assisted by W. A. Dence and W. P. Osborn, continued his investigation of the trout of the Cranberry Lake region in the western Adirondacks which is being made in cooperation with Commissioner Alexander Macdonald, of the N. Y. State Conservation Commission. These are the finest trout waters in the Adirondacks.

CHAS. C. ADAMS
*Director*

## THE WORLD'S DAIRY CONGRESS

THE opening sessions of the congress will be held on October 2 and 3 at Washington, when the discus-

sions will be of broad international character. The first day will be devoted largely to the official welcome of delegates. It is expected that President Coolidge will welcome to America the representatives of the 37 governments which are sending delegates in response to the invitation of our State Department. In the event of his absence, Charles E. Hughes, secretary of state, will speak. It is planned to have the address of welcome responded to by J. Maenhaut, of Brussels, Belgium, president of the International Dairy Federation. Other speakers scheduled for the Washington sessions include: H. E. Van Norman, president of the World's Dairy Congress Association; Herbert Hoover, secretary of commerce; F. O. Lowden, ex-governor of Illinois, and president of the Holstein-Friesian Association of America; Charles Porcher, editor of *Le Lait*, of Lyon, France; L. G. Michaels, representing the International Institute of Agriculture, Rome, Italy; J. A. Ruddick, Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner, Agricultural Department of Canada; Henry C. Wallace, secretary of agriculture for the United States, and J. D. Miller, president of the National Federation of Milk Producers and vice-president and general counsel of the Dairymen's League, Inc., Utica, New York.

The congress delegates will spend October 4 at Philadelphia as guests of the National Dairy Council. After their welcome by Mayor J. H. Moore, they will spend the day in observing the methods employed by the council in promoting a wiser use of milk. At the session, Dr. Clyde L. King, secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, who has for several years arbitrated milk disputes at Philadelphia and at Baltimore, Md., will preside, and the speakers will include M. D. Munn, president of the National Dairy Council. Gifford Pinchot, governor of Pennsylvania, will address the delegates at a banquet in the evening.

The delegates will hold their meeting from October 5 to 10 in cooperation with the seventeenth annual National Dairy Exposition at Syracuse, New York. There, several sessions will be held simultaneously each morning and visitors may choose those dealing with the topics of particular interest to them. The topics, from day to day, will be as follows:

October 5—(1) Evaporated, condensed and dried milk in the dietary; (2) business organization; (3) cheese production; (4) extension methods in dairy education; (5) dairy publications.

October 6—(1) The nutritional value of milk; (2) ice cream problems; (3) improving and protecting the milk supply; (4) methods of dairy instruction; (5) dairy publications.

October 8—(1) Educating the public in the value of milk; (2) cooperative milk marketing; (3) control of quality in manufactured products; (4) transportation and bulk handling; (5) milk in the diet.

October 9—(1) City milk problems; (2) cooperative marketing of manufactured products; (3) butter manufacture; (4) milk secretion and the nutrition of dairy cows; (5) chemistry and bacteriology of milk.

October 10—(1) Equipment, construction and standardization; (2) condensed milk and milk products; (3) the control of the quality of milk; (4) breeding; (5) diseases of dairy cattle.

Among the prominent speakers will be:

A. Peter, director of the Government Dairy School, at Rutti, Zollikofen, professor of dairying in the Federal Technical High School, at Zurich, Switzerland; Dr. Constantino Gorini, professor of bacteriology and hygiene, Agricultural High School, Milan, and at the University of Pavia, Italy; Dr. R. H. Leitch, professor of dairying and chief of the dairy research department, West of Scotland Agricultural College; J. H. Blackshaw, O.B.E., dairy commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, England; Dr. A. J. Swaving, inspector of dairying, Department of Agriculture, Holland; Dr. L. B. Mendel, physiological chemist of Yale University and editor of *The Journal of Biological Chemistry;* Dr. H. C. Sherman, professor of food chemistry, Columbia University; Dr. E. V. McCollum, professor of chemical hygiene, Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Willibald Winkler, professor of dairying industry and bacteriology, Hochschule fuer Bodenkulture, Vienna; Miss Helen G. Campbell, of the Dairy and Cold Storage Commission, Department of Agriculture, Canada; Dr. C. Orla-Jensen, professor in veterinary sciences and bacteriology, Royal Agricultural and Veterinary College of Denmark; Dr. Haakon Isaachsen, professor of animal nutrition, Royal Agricultural College of Norway; Dr. Osakar Laxa, professor and director, Bacteriological Institute, Slovak Polytechnic School, Prague; Professor A. Miyawaki, of the Hokkaido Imperial University, Sapporo; J. H. Maggs, chairman of the directors, United Dairies, Ltd., London; J. L. Kraft, the American cheese distributor; E. C. Sutton, the American ice cream manufacturer; John Drysdale, of the Scottish Agricultural Society; J. Hill, manager of the Belfast (Ireland) Cooperative Society.

## THE ECLIPSED ECLIPSE

DR. E. E. SLOSSON, Science Service, reports from San Diego: Although the eclipse was eclipsed by clouds, a lot has been learned about how to take it. I have just seen something that has never been seen before—motion pictures of a solar eclipse. These are still in the negative stage and on account of low visibility do not amount to much as movies, but they demonstrate that the new methods of aerial observation employed by the aircraft squadron at San Diego under the command of Captain A. W. Marshall will be a valuable aid to both astronomy and meteorology. No wonder the telescope on Point Loma could not penetrate the clouds, for three successive veils interposed between them and the sun: First, stratus clouds from 500 feet to 4,000; next a fairly clear stretch up to 17,000, where the fliers entered dense alto-cumulus,

through breaks in which they could see the lighter cirrus floating at 30,000. Lieutenant B. H. Wyatt, who planned the observations, took his post in the comparatively clear layer at 13,000 feet, facing the shadow of the moon advancing from the north. To the right of its edge he saw a sharp red line extending along the horizon and a halo around the sun fifteen diameters away from it. During totality the recording thermometer at this altitude showed a rise of three and a half degrees Fahrenheit instead of the anticipated drop period. The humidity fell from sixty-three to fifty-two per cent. On the northeast quadrant of the sun a red plume projected more than half the sun's diameter. Lieutenant Wyatt was able to warn the astronomers three days in advance that September 10 would probably be cloudy, for he finds that when the upper air is fifteen degrees warmer than below, the coast of Southern California is in for fog. Ordinarily there is a fall of three degrees for each thousand feet ascended, but this is reversed when the hot air currents rising from the deserts of southeast California and Arizona moving seaward over-run the cold damp air from the ocean. Lieutenant Wyatt explained his theory of long range forecasting at the Los Angeles meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

## FELLOWSHIPS IN COAL MINING PROBLEMS

THE six college graduates who have been appointed to the annual research fellowships at the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh have already begun their studies of a wide variety of coal-mining problems. A significant feature of the research program for the year of 1923–1924 lies in the fact that two of the fellowships were newly established in order to carry on studies specifically requested by two private firms in the coal industry, both companies having agreed to finance the research work.

Each of the research fellows will work during the current year under the supervision of an official attached to the Pittsburgh Station of the Bureau of Mines. In accordance with the policy of the past two years, the results of the studies will be published at the end of the year by the Advisory Board of coal operators and engineers in cooperation with the Cooperative Department of Mining Engineering at Carnegie Tech. The assignment of problems has been made as follows:

"The relation of acidity and oxygen to corrosion of metals and alloys in acid mine waters," Ralph E. Hall, physical chemist, U. S. Bureau of Mines, and Research Fellow W. W. Teague, University of Alabama.

"A study of efficiency in blasting coal," J. E. Tiffany, explosives testing engineer, U. S. Bureau of Mines, and Research Fellow C. W. Nelson, Carnegie Institute of Technology. (Requested and financed by the Hillman Coal and Coke Company.)

"A study of the practicability of gas masks and protection afforded by them in mine atmospheres which contain carbon monoxide, irritating vapors and smokes, and which support combustion in a flame safety lamp," G. S. McCaa, mine safety engineer, and S. H. Katz, associate physical chemist, U. S. Bureau of Mines, and Research Fellow A. L. Barth, Pennsylvania State College. (Requested and financed by the Mine Safety Appliances Company.)

"Correlation of coal beds in the Allegheny Formation of Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio," Reinhardt Thiessen, research chemist, U. S. Bureau of Mines, and Research Fellow F. D. Wilson, University of Oregon.

"Effect of wheel diameter and other variables in friction losses in mine-car running-gear," Mayo D. Hersey, physicist, U. S. Bureau of Mines, and Research Fellow Howard E. Wetzel, Pennsylvania State College.

"The time-rate of combustion of coal-dust particles of definite sizes," C. M. Bouton, associate research chemist, U. S. Bureau of Mines, and Research Fellow J. M. Pratt, Swarthmore College.

## THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

AT the first meeting of the board of directors of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers for the administrative year beginning August 1, held in New York on August 2, President Ryan announced the following appointments as chairmen of committees:

### STANDING COMMITTEES

Board of Examiners—H. H. Norris, New York.

Code of Principles of Professional Conduct—John W. Lieb, New York.

Coordination of Institute Activities—W. I. Slichter, New York.

Edison Medal—Edward D. Adams, New York.

Executive—Harris J. Ryan, Stanford University, Cal.

Finance—G. L. Knight, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Headquarters—E. B. Craft, New York.

Law—H. H. Barnes, Jr., New York.

Meetings and Papers—L. W. W. Morrow, New York.

Membership—M. E. Skinner, Pittsburgh.

Publication—Donald McNicol, New York.

Public Policy—H. W. Buck, New York.

Research—J. B. Whitehead, Baltimore.

Safety Codes—H. B. Gear, Chicago.

Sections—A. W. Berresford, Milwaukee.

Student Branches—C. E. Magnusson, Seattle.

Standards—H. S. Osborne, New York.

### TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

Educational—W. E. Wickenden, New York.

Electrical Machinery—H. M. Hobart, Schenectady, N. Y.

Electrochemistry and Electrometallurgy—J. L. Yardley, Pittsburgh.

Electrophysics—F. W. Peek, Jr., Pittsfield, Mass.

Industrial and Domestic Power—H. D. James, Pittsburgh.

Instruments and Measurements—G. A. Sawin, Pittsburgh.

Iron and Steel Industry—F. B. Crosby, Worcester, Mass.

Lighting and Illumination—G. H. Stickney, Harrison, N. J.

Marine—G. A. Pierce, Jr., Philadelphia.

Mines—F. L. Stone, Schenectady, N. Y.

Power Stations—Nicholas Stahl, Providence.

Protective Devices—H. R. Woodrow, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Telegraphy and Telephony—O. B. Blackwell, New York.

Transmission and Distribution—F. G. Baum, San Francisco.

In accordance with the by-laws of the Edison medal committee, the board of directors confirmed the appointment by President Ryan of new members of this committee for terms of five years each as follows: C. C. Chesney, Pittsfield, Mass.; Robert A. Millikan, Pasadena, Cal., and M. I. Pupin, New York. The board also elected three of its members as members of the Edison medal committee for terms of two years each, namely, H. M. Hobart, Schenectady, N. Y.; Frank B. Jewett, New York, and W. K. Vanderpoel, Newark, N. J.

## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

AT the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society at Milwaukee on September 12, the Priestley Medal, awarded triannually by the society for distinguished services to chemistry, was bestowed on Dr. Ira Remsen, president and professor emeritus of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, at ceremonies at Marquette University.

THE medal of the Institute of Radio Engineers has been awarded to John S. Stone, electrical engineer of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company at San Diego, for his research work in radio communication. The presentation of the medal took place at a dinner in his honor in San Francisco on August 31.

AT a recent election, the Royal Academy of Medicine appointed as a foreign correspondent F. C. Waite, professor of histology and embryology in the Western Reserve University of Cleveland, Ohio.

DR. R. DOHRN has been appointed administrative director of the Zoological Station at Naples.

ON account of his change of residence, Dr. Sam F. Trelease has resigned his position as assistant secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Dr. Charles A. Shull, associate professor of plant physiology in the University of Chicago, has been appointed assistant secretary of the association until the Christmas holidays. Dr. Trelease, for several years instructor in plant physiology at the Johns Hopkins University, has become professor of botany in the University of Louisville. Dr. Charles A. Shull is engaged in research in the laboratory of plant physiology of the Johns Hopkins University, where he will remain until the Christmas holidays.

AMONG Americans and Canadians attending the meeting of the British Association at Liverpool are Professors Lee and Pupin, of Columbia University; Professors Bancroft and Merritt, of Cornell University; Professor Lewis, of the University of California; Professor Noyes, of the University of Illinois, and Professors Adams, Eve, McCallum, Tate and Whitby, of McGill University.

THE council of the American Mathematical Society plan to raise an endowment fund of at least one hundred thousand dollars and a committee on endowment has been appointed, consisting of Julian L. Coolidge, Harvard University (chairman); Arnold Dresden, University of Wisconsin; Griffith C. Evans, Rice Institute; Robert Henderson, Equitable Life Assurance Society, and George E. Roosevelt, 30 Pine Street, New York (treasurer).

DR. E. B. SAYE, formerly associate professor of pathology and bacteriology in the School of Medicine of Emory University, has resigned to accept the position of pathologist and bacteriologist at the State Insane Asylum at Milledgeville, Ga., and Dr. R. Henry Baldwin, formerly assistant professor of physiology, is now a member of the staff of St. Louis Hospital.

DR. G. C. SOUTHWORTH, who has been an instructor of physics at Yale University for the last five years, has accepted a position with the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, New York City.

DR. A. LUSTIG, senator and professor of general pathology at Florence, has been invited to inaugurate the new quarters of the Biological Institute at Buenos Aires and the Italian Hospital.

DR. MARION HINES, of the department of anatomy of the University of Chicago, has been granted a year's leave of absence, beginning in September, which she will spend in research work in the laboratories of Professor J. T. Wilson, of the University of Cambridge, and Elliot Smith, of the University of London.

WORD has been received that Dr. D. H. Tennent, of Bryn Mawr College, who, with his family, went to Japan about six months ago to make a study of fishes, is safe in Shanghai, where he was staying at the time of the earthquake.

CHARLES M. HOY, engaged in collecting mammals

in the interior of China for the U. S. National Museum, died there of appendicitis on September 8, according to cable advices to the Smithsonian Institution from Kuling, Kiangsi Province.

AT the St. Louis meeting of the American Medical Association in 1922, the Section on Diseases of Children authorized the creation of the Abraham Jacobi Memorial Fund Committee, for the establishment of a permanent fund for the section. We learn from the *Journal* of the American Medical Association that a copy of the yearly transactions of the section is sent free to each contributor; a part or all of the expenses of a foreign guest of the section will be met by appropriations from the fund; pediatric exhibits in the Scientific Assembly of the American Medical Association will be encouraged, and, if advisable, the expense thereof paid from this fund, and wherever possible a grant will be made for the assistance of pediatric research or for charity. A new member of the committee is elected by the section each year to serve five years. The committee elects one of its members as secretary of the fund, and the oldest member in point of service on the committee acts as chairman. The following are the officers of the committee: Chairman, Dr. Laurence R. Debuys, New Orleans; secretary, Dr. Frank C. Neff, Kansas City, Mo., and members, Drs. Fritz B. Talbot, Boston; Clifford G. Grulee, Chicago, and Harold K. Faber, San Francisco.

THE University of Indiana has received a check for $1,500 from the Home Insurance Company because cloudy weather prevented its expedition from taking photographs of the scientific value of the eclipse of the sun which would have been visible except for the clouds in Lower California on September 10. Swarthmore College also insured its expedition to obtain photographs against cloudy weather through the same company, taking a policy for $10,000. The University of Indiana paid a premium of $150. Swarthmore paid $500 for a *pro rata* policy and will be paid according to the degree of the failure to obtain satisfactory plates. Swarthmore's plates have not yet been developed.

A DISPATCH from Tokyo states that the loss to Japanese science by the fire and earthquake is enormous. The Imperial University's collection of scientific instruments was destroyed by the fire. It will take years to replace them.

THE Chemical Exposition this year was held this week immediately following the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society. The usual meeting of the American Ceramic Society was held in conjunction with the exposition in the Grand Central Palace beginning on September 19. The annual banquet and election of the Salesmen's Association of the American Chemical Industry was also held during the week of the exposition. The regular dinner during the Chemical Exposition of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers was held Wednesday evening.

HOW radio is finding a use for many of the rare metals was shown at the composite radio exhibit at the National Exposition of Chemical Industries, which opened at the Grand Central Palace, New York, on September 17. A number of well-known firms contributed products of their manufacture which deal directly or indirectly with the construction or operation of radio instruments. Thorium, tellurium, selenium, tantalum, molybdenum—all metals rarely getting into commerce on a broad scale—were demonstrated. In addition to the metals, carborundum crystals, synthetic resins, hard-rubber radio parts, extremely fine precision instruments for electrical work and a number of other important features of the radio construction were demonstrated. Alundum tubes for use in measuring high temperatures, particularly in furnaces for drawing tungsten tube wire, formed part of the exhibit.

THE Eighth Meeting of the Optical Society of America will be held at Cleveland, Ohio, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 25, 26 and 27. The hotel headquarters will be Hotel Cleveland and the meeting place for the program of papers will be Case School of Applied Science. Professor A. A. Michelson will read, by invitation, a paper on "The limit of accuracy in optical measurement," and there will be a program of contributed papers and committee reports. Arrangements are being made for visits to the Nela Research Laboratories, the National Lamp Works, Warner and Swasey and the Cleveland Museum of Art. The advance programs will be mailed to all members about October 5 or 10. Since there are other large conventions in Cleveland at the same time, hotels are likely to be crowded, and members are advised to make their hotel reservations at once. Dr. W. E. Forsythe, Nela Research Laboratory, Nela Park, Cleveland, is chairman of the local committee on arrangements and Dr. Irwin G. Priest, care of the Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C., is the secretary of the society.

## UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NOTES

DR. JAMES S. SWARTZ, formerly treasurer of the International Mercantile Marine, chairman and for nearly forty years trustee of Bucknell University, has given to the university a 600-acre tract of land situated along the Potomac River valued conservatively at $60,000.

SEVERAL cousins of Austin B. Fletcher, who died on July 5 leaving the bulk of his fortune to Tufts College, have formally protested probate of his will by filing objections in the Surrogates' Court. The value of the estate is said to exceed $4,000,000.

Z. P. METCALF, professor of zoology and entomology in the North Carolina State College and entomologist of the North Carolina Experiment Station, has been appointed director of resident teaching in the College of Agriculture.

PROFESSOR J. W. MILLER, who has served as head of the department of electrical engineering of the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College for several years, has been appointed mechanical and electrical research engineer at the engineering experiment station of the University of Arkansas. Mr. Miller will devote his time exclusively to research work on problems of interest to the industries of the state.

MISS CLEMENTINA S. SPENCER, professor of zoology and for seven years acting head of the department in Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has resigned and was recently married to Mr. Chester A. Momyer, of Chicago. The new head of the department, occupying the newly created Bert. H. Bailey chair of zoology, is Dr. T. H. Bissonnette, formerly of Queen's College, Ontario, and of the University of Chicago.

DR. GEORGE D. PORTER, Toronto, has been appointed head physical director at the University of Toronto, succeeding Dr. James W. Barton, who resigned last spring.

MR. ALAN G. OGILVIE has been appointed lecturer in geography in the University of Edinburgh in succession to Mr. G. G. Chisholm, who had held that position since the lectureship was founded in 1908.

WE learn from *Nature* that Dr. W. Schumann, director of the Institute of Technical Physics at Jena University, has been appointed professor of theoretical electrotechnics at the Munich Technical College; Dr. Julius Schmidt, of the Stuttgart Technical College, to be reader in chemistry at the Engineering College, Esslingen; and Dr. K. Fajans, to be assistant professor of physical chemistry at the University of Munich.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### CONCERNING TUNNIES AND ALBACORES

THE huge fishes of the open seas, known as tunny, tuna and albacore, are well represented in the Mediterranean, in the West Indies and especially in the Pacific Ocean, about Southern California, Hawaii and Japan. On account of their great size, the species are rare in collections, and in no case have the forms in any one of these regions been adequately compared with those of any other.

The first thorough and by far the most important study of this group has been lately published by Dr. Kamakichi Kishinouye of the Imperial University of Tokyo.[1] Of late years, deep sea fishing has brought these fishes in great numbers to the Japanese markets, a fact which has given Dr. Kishinouye a most valuable opportunity.

In the study of the muscular layers and associated organs he finds characters of great value. Other important distinctive traits occur in the skeleton. Any treatment of the scombroid or mackerel-like fishes either systematically or anatomically must make constant use of this paper.

Dr. Kishinouye very properly restricts the *Scombridae* to the two very distinct genera, *Scomber* (in Japanese *Saba*) with the short spinous dorsal and *Rastrelliger*. The Spanish mackerel and its allies (in Japanese, *Sawara*) form the well-marked family of *Cybiidae,* visibly separated by the strong dentition, the many-spined dorsal-fin and the long parallel interhemal bones. To this group most of the known fossil mackerels belong.

The Tunnies differ from these ancestral types in so many ways that Kishinouye would make of them a distinct order, *Plecostei,* with two families, *Thunnidae* and *Katsuwonidae,* the first containing the *tunnies* and *albacores* (in Japanese, *Maguro* and *Shibi*), the latter their smaller allies (*Katsuwo*) with the peculiar trellis-like structure of the posterior hemal bones. The new name, *Katsuwonus,* is given to the section of the older genus *Euthynnus,* to which the oceanic bonito, *Euthynnus pelamis,* belongs. Two other new generic names, *Parathunnus* (*mebachi*), and *Neothunnus* (*macropterus*), apparently justified, occur in this paper, but its larger worth consists in its minute description of the structure, habits and values of each of more than a dozen Japanese species and in the finely accurate engravings by which the work is illustrated.

DAVID STARR JORDAN
STANFORD UNIVERSITY

### PHOSPHATE BEHAVIOR IN SOILS

RESULTS obtained by extraction of soils with varied quantities of water and data obtained from displaced solutions are corroborative of the idea that phosphate in the effective solution of the soil constitutes a saturated solution. Two corollaries flow from this propo-

[1] Contributions to the Comparative Study of the so-called Scombroid Fishes, Kamakichi Kishinouye: *Journal* of the College of Agriculture, Imperial University of Tokyo.

sition: First, that different soils will have different phosphate ion concentrations, depending in each instance on the concentration of their other solutes and the reaction of their solutions. Second, that the phosphate concentration of the solution in a given soil will fluctuate also in accord with the concentration of other solutes and changes in reaction.

Any diminution of the concentration of solutes in the soil solution which reduces the active mass of cations tending to form relatively insoluble phosphates or which diminishes the buffer effect of the solution should tend to increase the phosphate concentration. The measurement of this effect has heretofore been impossible because no method has been available for the precise measurement of concentrations in the soil solution. The writers, following the suggestion of Parker, have recently shown[1] that solutions displaced from tightly compacted soils have uniform concentrations in their successive increments up to the time the displacing agent (water) begins to appear and that the total concentrations of electrolytes in such displaced solutions are inversely proportional to the total initial moisture contents of the soil. Such solutions apparently represent very closely, if indeed they do not constitute, the soil solution. Using such a procedure, we have demonstrated (unpublished data) that after a volume of solution equal to the amount of water initially contained in the compacted soil has been removed, the solutions obtained from a second displacement of the same mass of soil with an equal amount of water have decreasing total concentrations of electrolytes, but that the phosphate concentrations increase. This effect has doubtless been obscured in leaching experiments, because the leached soils have not been sufficiently compacted to prevent the admixture of the soil solution with the water poured on the top of the soil mass.

The importance of the above stated fact is that at the approach of the end of the growing season, the generally recognized diminished total concentration in the soil solution may be, and probably is, accompanied by an enhanced, or tendency toward an enhanced, concentration of phosphate. We have observed what appears to be the result of this effect in two soils, cropped to barley, during the past season, when the solutions displaced at the end of the season had very much higher concentrations of phosphate and lower concentration of other electrolytes than did the solutions displaced at the beginning of the season. It is evident that this effect may be masked by experimental error in soils of low total concentration or by increased absorption on the part of the plant if the crop being grown on the soils under observation absorbs very large amounts of phosphate in the later stages of growth.

In the latter case, while the effect may not be measurable, its existence should contribute to a greater absorption of phosphate by the plant. This effect, if generally confirmed, should explain many of the anomalies of phosphate behavior in plant nutrition and obviate the necessity for assuming any special mechanism such as the excretion of plant acids to account for the relatively large phosphate absorption as compared with low phosphate concentration in the soil solution.

JOHN S. BURD
J. C. MARTIN

LABORATORY OF PLANT NUTRITION,
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

[1] "Water Displacement of Soils and the Soil Solution," Burd, John S. and Martin, J. C. In the *Journal of Agricultural Science*, Vol. XIII, Part III, July 1923.

## QUOTATIONS

### CHEMISTS IN HIGH PLACES

IN Rochester they tell the story that the Research Laboratory of the Eastman Kodak Company was founded by Mr. Eastman after a visit to Germany, during which a prominent industrialist boasted of his own research staff and asked Mr. Eastman how many chemists he employed upon research.

C. E. K. Mees, who had been managing director of Wratten & Wainwright, of England, from 1906 to 1912, came to be director of the Research Laboratory in the latter year, and began to make his intimate acquaintance among American chemists at the meeting of the Eighth International Congress of Applied Chemistry. He has become prominent among American chemists, and notwithstanding his increasing duties with his company, has had time to contribute much to the success of the Rochester local section. We can commend such activity to the many other plant executives. The Superintendents' Club at Kodak Park can offer many an interesting story of the early experiences of Dr. Mees as one of their number.

Not long since there were added to the duties of directing research those incident to development, which carries with it the responsibility of investigating and advising new departures in manufacture, based either upon the company's own discoveries or suggestions from others. We are pleased to say that Dr. Mees has since been made a director of the Eastman Kodak Company, the election taking place at a recent meeting of the directors. This promotion is pleasing personally, and is of interest to all chemists, proving as it does that a man properly qualified and trained, and with a willingness really to work may succeed in reaching the highest places in a corporation

by the chemical route. Having made a specialty of photographic theory and having a keen appreciation of scientific work both fundamental and applied, we venture the prediction that no director of the company will contribute more to the success of the corporation than Dr. Mees.

The election of chemists to high places in industrial organizations should not be so infrequent as to need editorial comment. The valuable qualities which the Eastman Kodak Company has discovered in Dr. Mees may be found by other commercial organizations among their own scientific staff. We venture to suggest that such an inquiry would reveal many men qualified to take such increased responsibility in the management of the company's affairs. Such a man will, of course, have native ability, made more valuable by the special training which a thorough grounding in chemistry and allied subjects is sure to give. With a little encouragement he will be able to pass sound judgment in differentiating between essentials and non-essentials in business, just as he must do in the course of his chemical work.—*Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry.*

## COMMITTEE ON LUMINESCENCE

THE Committee on Luminescence of the National Research Council met at Ithaca, N. Y., on August 17th. Present were Messrs. C. D. Child, H. L. Howes, H. E. Ives, E. L. Nichols and Miss Frances G. Wick.

Mr. Child reported on the present status of our knowledge of the luminescence of mercury vapor and suggested that special attention be called to the following phenomena of mercury vapor which deserve further investigation: (1) The continuous spectrum which may be obtained under certain conditions of pressure and temperature, (2) the abnormal broadening of the absorption spectrum which occurs with increasing pressure of the vapor, (3) the fact that the luminosity of the continuous spectrum does not commence at the instant the vapor is excited and that it continues for an appreciable time after the excitation has ceased, (4) the increase in chemical activity occurring under the same conditions as those required for the continuous spectrum, and (5) the apparent decrease in the ionization potential occurring under the same conditions. The following explanations which have been suggested should be tested further: (1) That newly vaporized vapor is more active in giving the continuous spectrum than other vapor, and (2) that molecules are formed from excited atoms, that is, from atoms in which an electron has been removed to an outer orbit.

Mr. Howes gave a résumé of investigations of the luminescence of the rare earths and in particular of the extended researches of Urbain in this field.

Mr. Ives reported on the relations between the photo-electric effect and luminescence so far as the same have already been developed and urged that observers in these fields should keep in mind the importance of more definitely determining the nature of such interdependences as may exist.

Mr. Nichols discussed the structure of luminescence spectra. He announced that measurements made under his direction, and soon to be published, indicate that the apparently continuous luminescence spectra of solid solutions in general are made up of submerged, over-lapping bands having a constant frequency interval and that this interval is characteristic of the activating element; also that the spectrum of incandescent oxides, of flames containing burning metals such as magnesium, calcium, aluminum, etc., and probably of all incandescent solids, have the structure above described.

Miss Wick described studies of the luminescence spectra of certain natural fluorites previously heated to fusion. Instead of the relatively broad bands observed by Urbain and others in such fluorites, the modified spectrum consists of fine lines readily identified as those of samarium, europium, dysprosium, etc.

The phosphorescence of these fluorites is greatly increased and prolonged by such heat treatment.

By invitation Messrs. D. T. Wilber and L. J. Boardman sat with the committee.

E. L. N.

## SPECIAL ARTICLES

### ULTRAMICROSCOPICALLY OBSERVABLE FLUORESCENCE

SINCE my last communication on the fluorescence of the blue-green algae, in which I expressed reserve regarding its visibility in chloroplasts, I have been able to demonstrate to others, observers of the highest competence, and thus to assure both them and myself that the chloroplasts of the leaves and of the green algae examined by me exhibit a marked degree of deep red fluorescence observable with the dark field condenser, when the optical conditions described (SCIENCE 58: 91–2. 3 Aug. 1923) are fulfilled. This observability gives new impulse to the study of the chloroplast.

Suspensions of living cells of a *Scenedesmus* and of a *Monostroma* are fluorescent to the eye when examined in a dark room in a narrow beam of strong light of w. l. approx. 530 and less, and their spectra in this light exhibit a strong band in the red, as K. Stern found for *Chlorella* (Ber bot. Ges. 38: 28. 1920). The same general statement may be made for suspensions of chloroplasts in water and in glycerine.

E. g. the filtrate from *Saponaria* leaves ground with water and sand behaved in this way. When observed ultramicroscopically, all these showed the deep red fluorescence.

J. Reinke (Bot. Zeit. 44: 166 ff. 1886) believed that rhodophyll is composed of two "atom groups," one similar to the green component of chlorophyll; the other, a water soluble substance set free on death and only then becoming fluorescent. It would be of interest to examine the Florideae for fluorescence by means of the dark field condenser. I hope that some one working with these forms in reach will find time and inclination to make the examination.

For bringing into view the fluorescence of chloroplasts the use of glycerine or cane sugar (or equivalent) is necessary. I may iterate that it is at the apex of the inverted cone of illumination, obtained by reflection from the cover glass, that fluorescence is observable. A thin (0.8 mm. or less) slide and a dry objective are required.

In the above media some chloroplasts maintain their fluorescence for a surprisingly long time, though in this they do not all behave alike. Those of *Chlorophytum* and of *Aspidistra* have remained fluorescent in concentrated cane sugar for over a month, the preparation lying on a table in diffused light. During that period, those mounted in glycerine have nearly all lost their fluorescence—a few only are still so at the present writing. In water the chloroplasts, as is well known, rapidly break down or become vacuolated, as they do, but more slowly, in weak glycerine, according to the amount of water present. Under these circumstances no fluorescence is observable, ultramicroscopically, though it may not be absent.

In the chloroplasts of *Vaucheria* the fluorescent pigment soon becomes segregated into one to several vacuoles which are individually fluorescent, and which suffer more or less extrusion. There is a presumption that these vacuoles are identical with the drops of "assimilatory substance" observed by A. Meyer (Ber. bot. Ges. 36: 674. 1918) and by G. Mangenot (C. R. soc. biol. 83: 892. 1920).

With regard to the *Cyanophyceae,* I now find that, irrespective of the genus, the species may be divided into two groups, distinguishable by their fluorescent colors, those which are red (but with difference of shade corresponding it may be with various forms of phycocyanin) and those which are orange. These two groups will probably be found to align themselves with those found by K. Boresch, using spectrum analysis, to contain on the one hand a blue pigment with carmine red fluorescence, and, on the other, a red pigment having an orange-yellow fluorescence, separable from each other also by capillary analysis (Biochem. Z. 119:167. 1921).

The importance of an adequate evaluation of the behavior of the fluorescent pigments is indicated by the recent important work of B. Moore, E. Whitley and T. A. Webster (36 Ann. Rep. Oceanog. Dept. L'pool. 1922) who advance evidence to show that the role of the red pigment in the Florideae is not simply that of a screen, but that it is actively catalytic, partaking in photosynthesis.

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## NEW HAMPSHIRE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

THE New Hampshire Academy of Science held its fourth annual meeting at Alton Bay and at Durham, New Hampshire, May 25, 26 and 27. The academy is bringing together men in scientific work in New Hampshire, including members of the staff of Dartmouth College and the University of New Hampshire, technicians from industrial organizations, teachers of science in secondary schools and some noteworthy amateurs.

A feature of the annual meeting is a field excursion. Last year this took the form of a trip afoot into King Ravine, of the White Mountain, a great glaciated area. This year a boat was chartered for a trip to points of interest in Lake Winnepesaukee.

The program of papers read was as follows:

*A review of cellulose hydration theories as applied to beating:* M. O. SCHUR.

*Auxiliary problems in nitrogen fixation:* GEORGE A. PERLEY.

*Chlorination of state water supplies:* C. L. POOL.

*The Schick test for diphtheria:* K. C. ATKINS.

*The feeble-minded mother in New Hampshire:* B. W. BAKER.

*Some relations of metabolism to growth and reproduction in plants:* H. R. KRAYBILL.

*Lethal hereditary factors in butterflies:* J. H. GEROULD.

*Determination of stellar distances:* J. M. POOR.

*What of science?* L. B. RICHARDSON.

*Wild life in New Brunswick:* LELAND GRIGGS.

*The human side of science:* EDWIN E. SLOSSON.

Symposium on "Curriculum of the high and the junior high schools of New Hampshire":

*Some theoretical considerations or the what and why:* J. W. TWENTE.

*Economy in the social orientation of children:* E. W. BUTTERFIELD.

*The new alchemy:* GORDON L. CAVE.

*The social science core in secondary education—a study in curriculum making:* A. N. FRENCH.

*Place of home economics in high school training:* HELEN F. MCLAUGHLIN.

W. C. O'KANE,
*Secretary*